

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Kiamars Hajizadeh and Zakir S. Murtaza

Application No.: 09/993,391

Confirmation No.: 4943

Filed On:: November 14, 2001



Examiner: Counts, Gary W.

Art Unit: 1645

For: Rapid Prion-Detection Assay

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED DECEMBER 28, 2004**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is a Response to the Office Action mailed December 28, 2004. The original period of response to the Office Action was a shortened statutory period of three months from the mailing date. Applicants have filed concurrently herewith a Petition for a three (3) month extension of time along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal. Accordingly, the time period for response is extended to June 28, 2005, and this Reply is being submitted within that time limit. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in the present Application in view of the Amendments and Remarks below.

In response to the Office Action of December 28, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks / Arguments** begin on page 12 of this paper.